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U. N. VOTES TO REACTIVATE PALESTINE CONCILIATION BODY; ISRAEL OPPOSES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The General Assembly's Special Political Committee adopted today a resolution prolonging the life of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for a further three years and reactivating the Palestine Conciliation Commission. Seventy-one delegations voted in favor of the entire resolution, none opposed and only Israel abstained from voting.

In a separate vote on the fourth paragraph of the resolution which called for reactivation of the conciliation body with a mandate to secure repatriation of Arab refugees as provided in a 1948 United Nations resolution, Israel cast the single vote in opposition and 17 other delegations refrained from giving this proposal their approval. Acceptance of the resolution by the General Assembly plenary session is now considered a matter of routine.

Israel announced its position on the resolution prior to the balloting but withheld its statement justifying its stand until the voting was completed. Michael S. Comay, head of the Israel delegation, then told the Committee that his delegation regarded it as "significant" that a large number of other delegations "have expressed their misgivings on Paragraph Four and have abstained on the separate vote."

While the Israeli statement was a general review of Israel's position on the refugee question and the broader issue of Arab-Israel relations, Mr. Comay reserved his fire for the paragraph of the resolution reactivating the Conciliation Commission.

"A renewed reference to the Conciliation Commission, in the year 1959," he declared, "must take account of the evolution of United Nations policy since 1948, when the Commission was established--of current international thinking on the problem--of the contemporary realities in the area--and of Israel's own record and undertakings. By any of these tests, Paragraph Four is devoid of realism. It looks backward instead of forward, and is more likely to impede a constructive solution than to promote one.

"We cannot accept the view that such a paragraph is justified because it has been lumped together with provisions about UNRWA in an understanding reached with the host governments," the Israel representative continued. "It must be repeated that Israel is not a party to such an understanding. My delegation has therefore voted against this paragraph, and abstained on the resolution as a whole."

Israel Delegate Explains Stand on U. N. Relief to Arab Refugees

Mr. Comay stressed that the Israeli vote did not "imply any reservation" regarding the mandate and operations of the UNRWA and explained that Israel had restrained from supporting the resolution for other reasons. He pointed out that "while no substantial progress has been made in solving the refugee problem, at least the only possible direction in which to solve it has become clarified over many years of international experience with it."

The main solution, he declared, "lies in the integration of the refugees into the economic life of the Arab world and their final absorption amongst their Arab brethren." Insofar as the problem was affected by Arab-Israel differences, he noted, "these differences can be resolved only by negotiation between the governments directly concerned."

He added that "it was encouraging that these basic tenets have been further reinforced by the Secretary General's report and by the statements made in this Committee by a number of delegations."

He reminded the Committee that "my government is willing at any time to negotiate a full and final settlement of all issues outstanding between Israel and the Arab States. However," he added, "my government has proclaimed its readiness to have the refugee problem dealt with apart from other matters in dispute, and to negotiate directly or indirectly on this problem alone."

The Israeli spokesman told the Committee of the steps Israel had taken as its share in solving a "problem for the creation of which Israel bears no responsibility." Israel, he said, had absorbed some 50,000 Arab refugees in UNRWA's care on Israel territory, had absorbed some 30,000 more who had infiltrated or returned under the family reunion

scheme and, "in the context of a solution by integration in the Arab lands, we do not exclude an extension of the family reunion scheme."

Further, he continued, Israel had released frozen bank accounts to the value of \$8,000,000 and had agreed to the release of all remaining accounts. It had handed over all valuables and securities left behind in safe deposit boxes. It had offered to pay compensation for abandoned properties "even before the achievement of a final peace settlement or the solution of other outstanding problems." He also noted that Israel had cooperated with the PCC for many years in making an inventory of Arab properties.

The Netherlands delegation announced that it had "serious misgivings" about the reactivation of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, particularly since one party did not agree to its terms of reference, and it therefore had abstained from voting on that paragraph of the resolution.

The other delegations which abstained were Iceland, the Philippines, Thailand, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Portugal, South Africa, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Sweden, Burma, Denmark, Finland and Uruguay.

GOLDA MEIR EXPLAINS OBJECTION TO REVIVAL OF U.N. CONCILIATION BODY

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, said today that Israel "would be committing suicide" if it accepted a large number of the Arab refugees.

This explanation of Israel's stand on the issue of repatriation of the Arab refugees en masse appeared in the Times of London, whose correspondent was one of a group of overseas newsmen now in the Middle East. The correspondents met with Mrs. Meir during a visit to Israel as part of their mission to investigate the problems of the Arab refugees.

Mrs. Meir said Israel had clearly stated its determination not to permit the return of large numbers of the refugees and its objection to the proposed revival of the Palestine Conciliation Commission. She said a revived PCC, as called for in a resolution on extension of the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency passed today by the UN Special Political Committee, might presage some renewed pressure to give Arab refugees the option of returning to their homes if they so desired.

As part of an overall Israel-Arab settlement, some refugees "might be allowed in under a plan for reunion of families but this is all," she said. She added that Israel was ready "to pay compensation." Stressing that those who were children among the refugees 11 years ago had in the intervening years been indoctrinated in their schools through specially-prepared textbooks to hate Israel and to aim at its destruction, she said that if Israel accepted these now grown people, Israel "would be committing suicide."

She told the correspondents that Israel had done and was still doing its share of solving refugee problems by having in the past 11 years taken in nearly 1,000,000 refugee Jews. The Arab countries had space to spare and could without much difficulty absorb Arab refugees who had a common language, religion and background with the peoples of those countries, she added.

Peace between Israel and the Arabs will come, she said, "not when Arab rulers begin to love Israel, but when the heads of the Arab states begin to love their own people and when they are concerned more with the lives of Arab children than with the deaths of Israel children."

ISRAEL PRESIDENT APPOINTS BEN-GURION TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- President Ben-Zvi formally entrusted Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion today with the task of forming a new government after the President completed the required consultations with all parties winning in the November 3 elections for the fourth Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

The President went to the Prime Minister's home for the action because the Prime Minister has been immured with a fever since yesterday and was expected to remain in bed for the next two or three days. He will continue his efforts to form a new Government from his home.

All parties, in their talks with the President, agreed that the Mapai candidate for Prime Minister should be given the task of forming a new government. The President received representatives of the three Arab parties and the Communists.

Agudat Israel representatives told the President that they were forbidden to participate in the Government by their rabbinical advisors, the Gedolei Hatorah, because their minimum demands on religious matters had been opposed by Mapai.

Since the General Zionists previously had indicated unreadiness to join the projected Government, all indications pointed to a renewal of the last previous coalition, as it was constituted before the defection of the National Religious party on the "Who is a Jew" controversy.

It was reported that an agreement with the Religious party was imminent and that the two leftist parties, Mapam and Achdut Avodah were prepared to agree to legislation on collective Cabinet responsibility. It was the refusal of the two left-wing parties to accept this doctrine in their fight against the Israel sale of arms to Germany last summer which caused Mr. Ben-Gurion to resign and end the coalition.

ISRAEL AMBASSADOR TO U.S. MAKES NEW PEACE OVERTURE TO ARABS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A strong plea for peace between Israel and the Arab states was made here tonight by Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to the United States at a dinner in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Addressing 1,500 guests assembled for the annual dinner of the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Israeli diplomat declared that his Government is ready for the mutual examination of any question. "None of the problems between the Arab States and Israel will ever get solved," he declared, "until a direct channel of communication is established. We are ready for this process."

The dinner, presided over by Arthur B. Krim, president of United Artists, marked the 25th anniversary of the Institute's first unit, the Daniel Sieff Research Institute, founded in 1934, and the 10th anniversary of the expanded Weizmann Institute. Referring to the permanent influence of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president and founder of the research center which bears his name, Mr. Harman called attention to Dr. Weizmann's successful attempt to reach an understanding with Arab nationalism at the time of the Peace Conference which followed World War I.

"This vision of peace still lives within us," Ambassador Harman said. "We are living today in Israel in a condition which is neither peace nor war. We have been living in this condition for the past 12 years, and we can carry on living in it as long as need be. Our existence as an independent free country does not depend on the recognition of that existence by anyone, but on our capacity to sustain our existence, and if necessary to protect it against attack. But we keep our vision fixed on the goal of peace."

Israel has no illusions about sudden changeovers in the political climate of its area, the Ambassador indicated, declaring that "Dr. Weizmann taught his countrymen that it is a fallacy to believe in short-cuts. Peacemaking in our area will be a process. The real log-jam in the way of this process will be removed when the Arab States come to understand that an accommodation with Israel is inevitable, and can only be reached by communication with us."

Dr. Salk Honored by the Weizmann Institute; Lauds Institution

An Honorary Fellowship was conferred on Dr. Jonas E. Salk by the Institute at the dinner, citing the University of Pittsburgh scientist "in recognition of his brilliant contribution to the field of preventive medicine and his pioneering work in developing an effective vaccine against poliomyelitis." The Fellowship scroll was presented to Dr. Salk by Dewey D. Stone of Brockton, Mass., chairman of the Weizmann Institute's International Board of Governors.

In responding to the tribute, Dr. Salk lauded the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, founder of the Institute as a humanist who desired to build a bridge between science and the spirit of man. He emphasized Weizmann's thesis that "science to live must be part of life." "The Weizmann Institute," Dr. Salk said, "will probably become one of the greatest and most significant contributions to the future of man."

Dr. Krim announced that an International Conference on the Role of Science in the new, underdeveloped states will be convened by the Weizmann Institute of Science in the summer of 1960. He said that over 30 top-level scientists from 20 African and Asian territories have already signified their intention of delivering papers at the Conference. He stated that the scientific gathering had the approval of the United Nations.

WEST GERMAN MINISTER DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING LWOW JEWS

BONN, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Professor Theodor Oberlander, the West German Minister for Expellees and War Victims, was quoted today as flatly denying charges that he was responsible for the extermination of Polish Jews in Lwow during World War II.

The charges were first made public last week in Der Spiegel, a leading West German news magazine, which asserted that Oberlander had been affiliated with the psychological warfare section of Hitler's SS and SA units.

In Israel, Moshe Reiss, a survivor of the Nazi Ghetto in Lwow, told reporters that Oberlander had several hundred Jews killed during the first few days of the German occupation and that later, 5,000 Jews were murdered near Lwow under Oberlander's orders. Reiss expressed readiness to go anywhere and testify under oath.

The West German official was quoted as declaring: "I never had any contact with the Jewish population of Lemberg and I am not responsible for a single murder. I have been an ordinary army officer. I have never been with the SS and really have no clue that Jews were killed in Lemberg when our battalion was stationed there."

He said he believed that such charges were from Communist sources, "who want to incriminate me as the responsible German Minister for Refugee Affairs."

NINE ACQUITTED AS NEO-NAZIS IN AUSTRIA; SENTENCED FOR STEALING ARMS

VIENNA, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Nine men, most of them recruits in the Austrian Army, were acquitted today on charges of having established a secret neo-Nazi organization but were sentenced to jail terms of from four weeks to eight months on conviction for theft of weapons from an army depot.

PHILADELPHIA JEWS LOSE CASE IN COURT AGAINST SUNDAY 'BLUE' LAWS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A federal court today dismissed a suit brought by five south Philadelphia Orthodox Jewish merchants against Pennsylvania's Sunday blue laws. At the same time, the court dissolved an injunction which had prevented enforcement of the laws here.

The court said it was in full accord with the reasoning and conclusion of another federal tribunal, which last week upheld the constitutionality of the laws. The five merchants had contended enforcement of the laws would infringe on their religious freedom. Since they observe their Sabbath on Saturday, they argued the laws would, in effect require them to remain closed for two days.

J. D. C. CONTRIBUTES 1,000,000 FRANCS FOR VICTIMS OF FLOOD IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The American Joint Distribution Committee has contributed 1,000,000 francs for the victims of the flood disaster in Frejus, it was announced today by Sydney Nelson, director of the JDC in France.

"We wish to do what we can to help in this terrible tragedy, as a token of our deep appreciation for the help that the French people has so often given to Jewish refugees throughout the years in emergency cases," Mr. Nelson said.

ARAB STATES BAN U.S. FILM, 'BEN HUR'; OBJECT TO ISRAELI ACTRESS

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The Arab League boycott committee today announced in Damascus that all Arab League states will ban the Hollywood film "Ben Hur" because its leading lady is the Israeli actress Haya Harareet.

The Syrian Government of the United Arab Republic has banned all Edward G. Robinson movies throughout the province, it was reported here today. The Ministry of Culture and National Guidance accused the Hollywood Jewish actor of "pro-Zionist activities."

Dr. Billy Graham, American Evangelist, is no longer welcome in the state of Jordan, Amman radio made known here today. The Jordanian Government charged Dr. Graham had participated in "pro-Israel activities including money-raising."

AMERICAN FIRM TO START PRODUCING NYLON IN ISRAEL; 75% TO GO FOR EXPORT

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Israel will start to produce its own nylon next May, it was announced here last night at a meeting of shareholders of the Rogosin Industries, Ltd., which is now producing rayon and tire cord fabric in the Jewish State. Beginning May 1st, the Rogosin enterprise in Israel will open a factory for producing nylon, 75 percent of which will go for export, it was reported at the meeting by Eric Gelber, general manager of the Rogosin plant.

Mr. Gelber lauded the cooperation of the Israel Government and the Histadrut with the Rogosin enterprise. He said that the workers at his plant are highly efficient and greatly devoted to their work. He reported that the Rogosin plant is now working in Israel at a profit which would permit the payment of three percent dividend to shareholders. Mr. Israel Rogosin, president of the company, told the meeting that he is determined "to do his utmost" to help Israel's industrial development. He was given a rising ovation by the shareholders.

LOWERING OF MARRIAGE AGE FOR GIRLS SUGGESTED BY ISRAEL MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Rabbi Jacob Toledano, Minister of Religious Affairs, asserted in debate today in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, that Israel's hot climate produces a more rapid development in girls and, therefore, the minimum age for marriage for them should be 15 instead of the present 17 years of age.

In debate on amendments to the Israel marriage law, Rabbi Toledano's proposal was opposed by Pinchas Rosen, Minister of Justice, who urged that the present minimum age be retained. Under existing law, marriage for a girl under 17 is permissible only if the girl is pregnant or if she has given birth.

The amendment under consideration would authorize Israel courts to permit marriage for a girl under 17 "if circumstances justify," and not only in cases of unmarried pregnancy or birth. There is no secular law in Israel on a minimum age for the bridegroom.

Explaining what he stressed as a personal opinion, Rabbi Toledano urged lowering of the marriage age for girls because of "social, climatic, traditional and practical reasons." He said the minimum age in England is 16, in France 15 and even 14 in Italy.

BERNARD GOLDSTEIN, LEADER OF WARSAW GHETTO, DEAD; FUNERAL TODAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Bernard Goldstein, a leader of the Warsaw Ghetto underground during the Second World War, who died here Monday at the age of 70. A volume of Mr. Goldstein's memoirs in Yiddish was published here only two weeks ago. Born in Poland, Mr. Goldstein was active from early youth in the Jewish Labor Bund in that country. He came to the United States in 1946 under the sponsorship of the Jewish Labor Committee. An English translation of his Yiddish work "Five Years in the Warsaw Ghetto," was published in 1949 under the title "The Stars Bear Witness."